

LABORATOIRE DE BIOPHYSIQUE
UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
Quai de l'Ecole-de-Médecine 24

Genève, le 12th of May 1960

Prof. Joshua LEDERBERG
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
STANFORD - California

Dear Josh and Esther,

When working through my notes I have taken during my journey in the States, I tried to get hold of the paper in which you have described this switchovergene directing the production of the H-natigen in one of your studies. Unfortunately I was unable to find it and I think you have not sent me the reprint. Will you have the kindness to send it to me ? I would like to indicate the reference also to Dr. Schlegel-Oprecht (she is the girls who has written this research report on the genetic of a capsular antigen which I have given to you).

I think back to my journey with greatest delight and big satisfaction. Indeed I learned a lot of things in some ways even too much to be enregistered entirely. Beside of science I have also been very glad to meet all these nice people in your country.

W. Arber has continued his work on introducing the character of λ adsorption by a combined transduction with maltose character. Indeed he is introducing it in B and the phage λ is multiplying after selecting out a special phage which has a host~~ing~~ induced variation. But unfortunately he was not yet able to get this receptor transduced into B3 which is thymine requiring or into the 15 T. It seems that there is something related to this deficiency which makes it impossible to introduce or to express the information of a receptor substance. Otherwise there is a lot of non finished stuff in our laboratory which is not yet indicated to tell about before we have confirmed it.

Prof. J. Lederberg

Naturally we are all extremely pleased with the project that you both may come for a period to work in our laboratory. This would be an extremely wonderful possibility and I hope that we can give you enough opportunities in the laboratory, to do interesting work. There is no serious restriction in considering the work with λ because this group is well up and works nicely. It is a little different for the moment being in electron microscopy where the change of personnel has made a big decrease in quality of the general work. I hope that by actively teaching new people we will be able in half a year or so to get again a team which is well formed and which will be able to overcome the technical difficulties. I think this is a necessary condition when accepting someone like you to work with us on biological problems. Only such work can progress rapidly enough to be of interest for you.

Could you tell me the date you have in mind for an eventual visit to our laboratory? It is of course clear that this communication will have no binding character but it would be welcome for me to make some plans for the next year !

Grete and Werner join me to send our kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eduard' or 'Edvard', written in dark ink.

E. Kellenberger